



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF : GEORGE CLARK, PAUL MORRISON AND
PEDRO VELIS

TITLE : AMINE-FREE EMULSIFICATION OF
ALKALINE EARTH METAL SULFONATES

SERIAL NO. : 09/621,857

FILING DATE : July 24, 2000

EXAMINER : REDDICK, M.

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TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION
MAILED SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

This paper is respectfully submitted in response to the Examiner's first substantive Office Action mailed on September 20, 2001.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Kindly amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) adding a urethane-based thickener compound to water;
- b) dispersing said thickener compound in said water by mixing until a uniform [water/thickener] solution of said water and said thickener is formed;
- c) adding an alkaline earth metal sulfonate or sulfonate-containing mixture to